

Meeting Minutes – Unified Sports Committee

Location: Special Olympics Delaware

Date: Monday, May 22, 2017

Time: 12:00-1:30pm

Attendees: Bob Beron, Kevin Charles, Gary Cimaglia, Kylie Frazer, Brian Mattix, Chris Muscara, Tommie Neaubauer and Matt Voltz

Agenda Items

I. Opening

a. Call to Order

- i. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by chairperson Gary Cimaglia.

b. Approval of Agenda

- i. Kevin Charles made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bob Beron and carried unanimously.

c. Approval of Minutes of April 5, 2017 DIAA Unified Sports Committee meeting

- i. Kevin Charles made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bob Beron and carried unanimously.

II. Action Items

a. Reviewed Recommended DIAA Regulation Changes

- i. Committee agreed to not apply for a blanket waiver regarding age (1009-2.1) or years of eligibility (1009-2.7). Committee feels strongly that athletes and Unified Partners participating in Unified Sports should abide by same rules as all other students competing under DIAA.

Brian Mattix made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Matt Voltz and carried unanimously.

- ii. Committee agreed that a Unified Sports definition needs to be added to 1009-1.0. After reviewing both definitions from the NFHS and Special Olympics International, the committee agreed on the following:

“Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that unites Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and Unified partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates for training and competition. All Unified Sports® players, both athletes and Unified partners, are of similar age and matched sport skill ability.”

Chris Muscara made a motion to approve the definition. The motion was seconded by Brian Mattix and carried unanimously.

- iii. Committee agreed that students with disabilities are eligible for Unified Sports under the partnership between DIAA and Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) based off of the definition of an athlete set forth by Special Olympics.

Chris Muscara made a motion to approve the definition. The motion was seconded by Brian Mattix and carried unanimously.

III. Discussion Items

- a. Committee agreed that moving forward all athletes and Unified partners would need to have a valid DIAA physical on file. The Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) physical will no longer be valid for interscholastic Unified Sports.
- b. Committee agreed that adding basketball as a Unified Sport offered during the winter season would be beneficial.
 - i. A pilot program will be conducted during the 2017-18 school year with four schools. Based off of the success of the pilot program, the first official season will take place during the 2018-19 school year.

IV. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.

Unfinished Business

- 1. Impact on Schools (budget, policies, etc.)